

The Hong Kong Daily Press.

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HONGKONG, SATURDAY, AUGUST 20TH, 1888.

六月

號五十二月八英港香

PRICE \$25 PER MONTH

NOTES

ARRIVALS.

August 24, PESHAWAR, British steamer, 2,155
L. H. Moule, Shanghai 21st August, Mails,
Tea, and Silk.—P. & O. S. N. Co.
August 24, STENTON, British steamer, 1,307,
Milligan, Foochow 21st August, General—
BUTTERFIELD & SWINEY.
August 24, NAMOA, British steamer, T. G.
Pocock, Foochow 21st August, Amoy 22nd,
and Swatow 23rd, General—DOUGLAS LA.
PEAK & CO.
August 24, KASHGAR, British steamer, 1,555,
F. Spick, Bombay 7th August, and Singa-
pore 18th, General—P. & O. S. N. Co.
August 24, THYEA, German steamer, 654, E. A.
Jacobsen, Newchwang 16th August, Beira—
ED SCHELLER & CO.
August 24, AMIGO, German steamer, 771, T.
Bruhn, Saigon 20th August, General—
WIELER & CO.
August 24, BORMIDA, Italian steamer, 1,490, E.
De Negri, Bombay 5th August, and Singa-
pore 18th, General—CARLOWITZ & CO.
August 24, ERJAH, Danish steamer, 397, C. A.
Lund, Haiphong 22nd August, General—
ARNOLD, KARBERG & CO.
August 24, GLENAYON, British steamer, 1,935,
Jacobs, Shanghai and Amoy 23rd August,
Tea and General—JARDINE, MATTHESON &
CO.
August 24, SARTHE, French steamer, 470, Le.
Ludek, Hobo 19th August, General—A. R.
MARTY.

TELEGRAPHIC.

HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE
26TH AUGUST.
Fallenbury, German str., for Saigon.
Hongkong, British str., for Swatow.
Victoria, British str., for Nagasaki.
Hansell, British str., for Batavia.
Cicero, British str., for Sourabaya.
Glory, British str., for Shangai.

DEPARTURES.

August 24, FUENKI MARU, Japanese str., for
Kutchnotu.
August 24, ANTON, German str., for Hobo.
August 24, PHOTOS, German str., for Sourabaya.
August 24, DECIMA, German str., for Saigon.
August 24, ESPION, British str., for a cruise.
August 24, HAIPHONG, British str., for Coast
Ports.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.
Per *Penang*, Mr. Iron, Shanghai—For
Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Morris, Canada
and native servant—Mr. and Mrs. Mordey
and child, Messrs. D. Schawb and E. H. Latry,
and 9 Chinese. For London—Messrs. W. F. Harris,
Withcombe, and A. Cladus.
Per *Stentor*, str., from Foochow—18 Chinese.
Per *Namoa*, str., from Coast Ports—18
Chinese.
Per *Azores*, str., from Bombay, Ad.—222
Chinese.
For *Bormida*, str., from Bombay, &c.—167
Chinese.
TO DEPART.
Per *Penang*, str., from Hongkong—For
Singapore—Mr. C. Hills, For Penang—Mr.
Gao Hoo Kee, For Sydney—Mr. S. H. Frey,
For London—Quartermaster Sergeant Rickatt
and Mrs. Rickatt, Mrs. Antoin, Messrs. R. H.
Pye Taylor, and P. Seward, From Shanghai—
For London—Messrs. W. F. Harris, With-
combe, and A. Cladus. From Yokohama—For
Colombo—Messrs. Talbot and F. A. Crawford.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Nanosa*, from Foochow,
21st August, Amoy 22nd, and Swatow 23rd, re-
ports bad S.W. winds smooth sea, and fine wea-
ther from Swatow. In Foochow str. Mayil,
Hoshin, Stevns, Glenwo, and Chinghu. In
Amoy str. Hobo and Formosa. In Swatow
str. Tokien and Johnson.

SERVICES are Conducted by Rev. J. A.
TURKE, in the Wesleyan Mission
ECCLESIA, Queen Road East, on SUNDAYS
at 9.45 A.M. and 5 P.M.
Hongkong, 16th February, 1888. [1531]

PLAYEL WOLFF & CO.,
PIANOFACTORY MANUFACTURERS,
22 & 24, RUE ROCHECHOUART, PARIS,
(FOUNDED IN 1869).

GRAND & UPRIGHT PIANOS on Sale
at all the principal Musical Instrument Dealers.

The following are supplied to Order—
Stringed and Metal parts in all sizes,
specimens required in all kinds and proportions,
and for countries where there is a difficulty
in obtaining timber. Wreathpins in Steel are
made fitted with ALBERT'S Pins, giving the
great guarantee for standing in tune, and
tuned with a simple time-piece Key.

Sole Agent for India and China, L. H.
RICHT, Rue Lafayette, PARIS. [1464]

BEDFORD COLLEGE, LONDON
(FOR LADIES).
8 and 9, York Place, Baker Street, W.
Classes for Degree Examinations of the
University of London, and for General Education.

B. SHADWELL,
Hon. Sec.

BEDFORD COLLEGE, LONDON,
RESIDENCE FOR STUDENTS.
8 and 9, York Place, Baker Street, W.
For Particulars apply to
MARY ASHDOWN,
Lady Superintendent. [1243]

BOWLANDS' KALYDORF
ools and refreshes the face and hands of
all exposed to the hot sun and dust, eradicates
freckles, sunburn, tan, &c., and produces a
beautified complexion.

BOWLANDS' OINTMENT
preserves and beautifies the hair, and can be
also had in a golden colour.

—Size 3/8; 7/- 10/-
Ask Chemists for Bowlands' Articles, or
20, Haymarket, London, or
Wholesale and Retail Agents for China:
A. S. WATSON & CO.,
1189, Shanghai.

JOSPH G. GILLOTT'S
STEEL PENS.

GOLD MEDAL,
PARIS, 1878.
sold by all
Stationers and Dealers. [918]

THE HONGKONG AND KOWLOON
WHARF AND GODOWN COMPANY,
LIMITED.

THE Company is prepared to TRANSHIP
CARGO from its Godowns at Kowloon
or West Point to any Steamer in the Harbour,
and to BRING CARGO across from Kowloon
to any place in the Praia at the usual rates.

By Order,
ISAAC HUGHES,
Secretary. [1534]

Hongkong, 21st April, 1888. [784]

INTIMATIONS.

STANDARD LIFE OFFICE,
ESTABLISHED 1822.

INVESTED FUNDS EXCEED... \$2,500,000.

ANNUAL INCOME EXCEEDS... \$200,000.

SECURITY is the chief point to be
considered in selecting an Office, with
which to effect a Life Assurance. THE
STANDARD LIFE OFFICE has stood the test
of 60 years, and stands in claim to be
the most successful in the world. The
Standard movement amounts to \$24,000,000, and
the Annual Income exceeds \$200,000.

Prospectuses containing the new and Revised
Rates; Forms of Proposals, &c., may be obtained
on application to the BORNEO COMPANY, LIMITED,

Agents, Hongkong.

KELLY & WALSH, LIMITED.

Summer Number "The Graphic."
Number 1 "Illustrated News."

Artistic Japan—New Monthly Journal.

White's Latin-English and English-Latin
Dictionaries.

Report of E. S. Bourne's Journey in
South Western China.

Marine and Astronomical and Nautical Astronomy.

Set of High Class Sporting Engravings
"The Ban of the Season."

Miss Florence Smith's Picture of the Queen
reproduced in Chromo Lithography, 81 each.

Wallace's Australasia.

James' Long White Mountain or a Journey
in Manchuria.

Herbert Spence's Works.

Rogier's Thesaurus or Treasury of Words.

Crabb's English Synonyms.

Mark Twain's Birthday Book.

Brewer's Dictionary of Phrases and Fables.

CIGARETTES—Rutherford Straight Cut,
Kings' Straight Cut, Little Beads, Virginia Brights.

TOMACOES—R. W. Wills' Three Castles
Rothschild's Richmond Gen., Cope's
Golden Leaf, Wills' Bristol Bird's Eye.

Happy Thought Brand, Star Mix-
ture, Golden Bee, &c., &c.

KELLY & WALSH, LTD., HONGKONG.

INTEREST ALLOWED.

On Current Deposit Account at the rate of
2 per cent per Annum on the daily balance.

For 3 months 3 per Cent. per Annum.

For 6 months 4 per Cent. per Annum.

For 12 months 5 per Cent. per Annum.

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

CREDITS granted on approved Securities, and
every description of Banking and Exchange
business transacted.

BALLOTS granted on London and the chief
commercial places in Europe, India, Australia,
America, China and Japan.

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager,
Hongkong, 25th April, 1888. [1535]

NOTICE.

INTIMATION.

THE NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE
COMPANY, ESTABLISHED 1845.

TOTAL ASSETS ON 1 JANUARY, 1888... \$10,076,616

AMOUNT ASSURED BY NEW YORK STATE... \$2,355,048

SURPLUS BY NEW YORK STATE... \$2,437,612

STANDARD.

The Company is a purely Mutual
Life Assurance Office, and holds
no stocks or divided among them exclusively.

It is the largest life insurance company
in the world, the ratio of Death Losses to (1)

Premia, (2) to Interest, and (3) to Insurance
Force, in 1887, was lowest in the New York
Life, whilst Interest receipts, since 1845,

have exceeded losses by death by over \$250,000.

Proprietors containing the new and Revised
Rates; Forms of Proposals, &c., may be obtained
on application to the BORNEO COMPANY, LIMITED,

Agents, Hongkong.

Hongkong, 3rd July, 1888. [1449]

BANKS.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAIBANKING
CORPORATION.

PAID UP CAPITAL... \$7,500,000

RESERVE FUND... \$3,000,000

RESERVEABLE PROFIT... 7,500,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS:

Hon. W. H. FORBES, Chairman.

W. D. BOTTRELL, Esq., Vice-Chairman.

W. G. GREENE, Esq., Secretary.

H. G. DODGE, Esq., Treasurer.

H. L. ROBINSON, Esq., Auditor.

N. A. HALL, Esq., Auditor.

E. A. SOLomon, Esq., Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 25th August, 1888. [1536]

NOTICE.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

NO. 359.

THE following Particulars and Conditions of
Sale of Crown Land by Public Auction

to be held on the Spot, on

MONDAY.

the 27th day of August, 1888, at 5 P.M.,
are published for general information.

By Command.

FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong, 15th August, 1888. [1541]

NOTICE.

REGULATIONS OF THE HONGKONG
SAVINGS BANK.

1.—The business of the above Bank will be
conducted by the Hongkong and Shanghai
Banking Corporation on their premises in
Hongkong. Business hours on week-days, 10
to 12 M. and 1 P.M. to 1 P.M.

2.—Sums less than \$1, more than \$250 at
any time will not be received. No depositor
may deposit more than \$2,000 in any one year.

3.—Depositors in the Savings Bank having
\$100 or more at their credit may open an
account with the Hongkong and Shanghai
Banking Corporation on fixed deposit for
12 months at 6 per cent per annum.

4.—Interest at the rate of 3/4 per cent per
annum will be allowed to Depositors on their
daily balances.

5.—Each Depositor will be supplied gratis
with a Pass-Book which must be presented with
each payment or withdrawal. Depositors must
not make any entries themselves in their Pass-
Books, but should send them to be written up
at least twice a year, and at the beginning of
January and January 1st of each year.

6.—Complaints as to the conduct of the
Bank will be referred to the Directors.

7.—Withdrawals may be made on demand,
but the personal attendance of the Depositor or
his duly appointed Agent, and the production of
his Pass-Book are necessary.

8.—For the HONGKONG AND KOWLOON
WHARF AND GODOWN COMPANY,
LIMITED.

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 1st September, 1888. [1542]

NOTICE.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY, LIMITED.

his condition is much aggravated, and as the manorial is situated in the most eastern, large, open space. We (the throne) feel constrained to show our sympathy with him by granting his request. We therefore authorize him to retire from his position as President of the Board of Revenue, and return to his native place to reside in his native town. He need not, however, vacate his appointment as Inspector of the Naval Forces on the Yangtze, the management of which will be undertaken by Li Ch'ing-mou. In order to show the reliance which the Court places on Peng Yulin as a public servant, we command him to resume his old office as soon as he is restored to health."

KOREA

KOREA

Seoul, 4th August.
The steamer *Deutschland* left our east-port, Chongju, on the 2nd July, and was struck by a series of gales off Gwangju, and was driven to Nampo. Her people arrived all safe on the 24th July. From statements made by the captain and others it was supposed that she had immediately broken up and sunk.

On the 1st instant the steamer *Signal* arrived at Chemulpo from Mokpo. The captain of the latter steamer reported having been borne away by the waves of the *Deutschland*, and about the engine room was awry at that time, but her deck is nearly dry. On the 7th instant the German Consul-General, Mr. Kraut, intends to visit the wreck of the steamer *Signal*. The *Deutschland* is supposed to belong to Korea, but had never changed her flag. She is said to be insured by a company of which Messrs. Meyer and Co. are the agents. I hear that two men and one woman were lost, and were recovered by our enterprising Korean friends from the Osaka Shipping Company, and will probably arrive here in a few days. The steamer *Hoi-ting* has gone to Dagelet Island, on the east coast, to bring wood for the audience hall, which His Majesty is anxious to have built in foreign style; "advances, Korea!" Nothing new of Judge Denby or other Ministerialists.

It will be of interest to learn that an "accident" about \$30,000 being already subscribed, and the list will probably reach \$40,000. The Minister have subscribed \$100 each, and other people are assessed \$50 and \$25. I think it is a fine idea. The original Club scheme was started when Messrs. von Moltendorf and Haas were in Korea; both gentlemen taking great interest in the scheme; it was dropped when they left Seoul, until quite recently.

JAPAN

N. A. G. & S. K. J.

Judgment was given on the 4th inst. by the Official Court of Inquiry held to investigate the circumstances of the ship *Hoi-ting* on the 25th point of Katsushima Goto Island on the morning of the 8th July. The Court found that in the morning in question there was a very strong current setting in the northward, and that, in addition, this, had contributed to the accident. The Court was, however, of opinion that considering the state of the weather, and position of the vessel close to land, the master, Captain Ochiai, should have used greater caution, and therefore recommended that he be severely reprimanded.

Admiral Chandler shifted his flag from the U.S.S. *Brooklyn* to the *Merion* on the 7th inst., and the *Brooklyn* left Korea on the morning of the 9th inst. homeward bound. Soon after leaving she broke down and arrived at Nagasaki on the 19th August in tow of the steamer *Ho-ting*, boat *John*. The *Brooklyn* was disabled, and fell in with the *Brooklyn*, in a disabled condition, owing to having broken her crank shaft, when about 5 miles south of Hiroshima, at 8.30 a.m. the same morning. The *Ho-ting*'s offer to tow her to Nagasaki was accepted, and they arrived there about 10 p.m. The *Brooklyn* was bound there, from Korea, on her way home, and the accident to her machinery was probably due to her machinery, and therefore determined to remain at Nagasaki for several months.

Some months ago, says the *Nipponchi* Express, the Government decided to dispose of the coal mine at Milke, which has hitherto been worked for them by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, and sealed tenders were invited for the purchase of it, with all the plant, etc., at an upset price of \$400,000.00, which was generally considered a very reasonable sum. The bids were opened on the 1st inst., and resulted in Mr. Sasaki Hachioji, manager of the Japan Iron Manufacturing Co. (or more probably a syndicate he represents), becoming the owner, for the sum of \$450,000.00, it is reported. The terms of payment to the Government are, we presume, very easy, but even then it is a very doubtful question whether the net profit on \$400,000.00 coal per month, will cover the cost of running the mine, pay fair dividends on such an enormous capital, and leave a margin for writing off the yearly depreciation of the property—a very serious item in a coal mine.

KOREA

The Koto Electric Light Company are, the *Yoko* News says, rapidly completing their arrangements for beginning business, and are to present engaged in fitting the necessary apparatus in private houses where the light is to be used. A trial of the machinery is to be made at the Company's works in a few days.

A conflagration at Obami, the province of Wakasa, continued throughout the night of the 21st inst., and consumed over 1,000 houses, or about one-third of the whole town. A strong breeze was it reported, blowing at the time, and although the fire spread with marvellous rapidity not a single fatal casualty happened.

Yoko News

YOKOHAMA

The *Choya* *Sainmu* says that it is stated that the Hon. John A. Bligh, formerly a Member of Parliament, will be re-appointed to a post, and will be appointed Minister for home affairs, on the expiration of his term of service.

A translation from a newspaper published in one of the Yokohama journals announced that Colonel Henry S. Cleot, President of the Theosophical Society, or Universal Brotherhood, is on his way to Japan, accompanied by two Buddhist priests from Ceylon. It is stated that the Colonel comes by invitation from the *Hakko-ji*.

It is understood that Mr. Mathews and Co. acting on behalf of the Japanese rice owners, have sold to the French Copper Syndicate, through Messrs. Henry Rogers & Co. of London, for a term of three years, the output of the two principal mines in Japan, which amounts to seven-eighths of the total output of the Japan mines.

We learn from the *Official Gazette* that a terrible conflagration occurred on the 31st ultimo at Kaneda-cho, Osaka, Fushimi Prefecture. The fire, which was at 2 a.m., and before it could be got under or burnt itself out, 539 houses, including godowns, shrines, and temples, were destroyed, while twelve people are said to have been killed, and scores severely injured. What with volcanic eruptions, floods, and disastrous fires, Japan seems to be suffering from an epidemic of misfortunes just now.

Captain Watt, of the British ship *Hidria*, which arrived in Yokohama on the 23rd August, reports that on the 2nd May, in 1880, he had to wait 12 long days for a mail. He passed through the Straits of Malacca, and then went to the Andaman Islands, where this was first sighted, was being alongside, and just as the *Hidria* got abreast, the latter passed back and went off on a southerly course, probably having taken off the crew of the burning vessel as there were no signs of them either on the ship or in the boats. No flags were flying, but Captain Watt of opinion that the burning vessel was German—*Japan Gazette*.

It was reported that the *Hidria* had been sent to San Francisco from Japan. The cargo was for account of the *Hochi* *Sainmu*, say of Mr. Sprakels, the great sugar refiner who had been induced to make the trial by the high price to which coal had risen in San Francisco, owing to fires in the collieries on the coast, and to the falling-off in arrivals of coal ships caused by the decrease in the quantity of wheat-waiting ships sent to England. The venture was so successful, it was told, that further shipments have been ordered.

A telegram from Tokushima, the chief town of Awa province, states that a storm occurred there on the night of the 4th and continued raging on the 5th instant. In Miyagawa, near Tokushima, a fire, presumably, an inundation, was caused by which the houses were washed away, and forty-four persons drowned. The waters of the rivers Miyata-gawa and Akimi-gawa rose enormously, and neither men nor horses could cross the streams. At a meeting of the standing

committee of the Provincial Assembly held on the 5th inst., a sum of 30,000 yen was voted for repairing the damaged river banks—*Japan Gazette*.

THE PHILIPPINES.

MANILA

The *Caviteño* says it is expected that the large steamer, which went ashore on San Nicolas, will be got off. A powerful steam pump has got all the water out of her, and lighters had been towed to her to lighten her cargo of coal.

COCHIN-CHINA.

SAIGON.

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For other news see Supplement.

INTIMATION.

IMPAIRED VISION.

M.R. LAWRENCE is now in Hongkong, to CONSULTED at the HONGKONG HOTEL (Room No. 20) daily from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M.

(CONSULTATION FREE). One Third of those suffering from Blindness can trace their calamity to the use of COMMON SPECTACLES or LENSES improperly adapted to the Sight.

S. R. GROOM, Esq., F.R.G.S., Barrister-at-Law, Singapore, writes—

I have used glasses for twenty years, and have no hesitation in saying that those supplied by you are the best I have ever worn.

I wear them with much satisfaction and comfort, and find the frames especially convenient.

To Messrs. LAWRENCE & MAYO, Singapore.

R. HUDDLE, Esq., Deputy Master Attendant Singapore, writes—

"I am much pleased with the glasses you have adapted to my sight. They are very clean and distinct, enabling me to read the smallest print without the least effort."

To Messrs. LAWRENCE & MAYO, Singapore.

Opticians to the Principal Ophthalmic Surgeons in India and England.

Office, Old Bond Street, London; 3 & 4 New Street, Calcutta; and 1 Hanover Row, Bow, London.

1 Hongkong, 26th July, 1888.

G. S. FILIPINO S., IMPORTERS OF TOBACCO AND MANILA CIGARS, 25, POTTERIES STREET.

A Large and varied Stock of best Descriptions of MANILA & CHINESE TOBACCO, CIGARETTES, Wholesale and Retail at Moderate Prices.

INSPECTION RESPECTFULLY INVITED.

SILVESTER ARLEGU & CO., Proprietors.

Hongkong, 30th May, 1888.

MONEY! MONEY! MONEY!

SUMS to be lent on FIRST MORTGAGE, \$8,000 to \$16,000.

For particulars, apply, by letter, to

E. E. D., Care of *Duty Free Office*.

Hongkong, 21st April, 1888.

REMOVAL

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

CHAMPAGNE "MONOPOLE," HEIDSIECK & CO.—

MONOPOLE RED SEAL (medium dry).

Do. "sec" END FOIL (dry).

Do. GOLD FOIL (dry).

Do. do. (extra dry).

CARLOWITZ & CO., Sole Agents for HEIDSIECK & CO., BEIJING.

For Hongkong, China, and Japan,

Hongkong, 1st July, 1888.

FOR SALE

AT WHOLESALE PRICES.

SACCONET'S SHERRY, PORT, CHAMPAGNE, HOCKS, BURGUNDY,

BRANDY, WHISKIES, ALST, STOUT, MACHINERY, PIANOS, COOKING STOVES, and TRICYCLES.

SCALES, CYCLES, PAINTS, OILS, VAENISH, PIANOS.

SINGER'S SEWING MACHINES, SOFT WATER, MECHANICAL GAS ENGINES, VELOCIPDES, HORSES, EMPIRE LUBRICATORS, ICE MAKING MACHINES, BICYCLE WHEELS FOR JINRICKSHAS.

Apply to W. G. HUMPHREYS & CO., Bank Buildings, Hongkong, 1st January, 1888.

FOR SALE.

FRED. GIESLER & CO'S CHAMPAGNE:

QUARTS \$28 per Case of 1 Dozen.

PINTS \$25 per Case of 2 Dozen.

GILMAN & CO., Hongkong, 31st May, 1888.

FOR SALE.

C. H. S. HEIDSIECK & CO., CHAMPAGNE, 1880, WHITE SEAL.

\$22 per case of 1 dozen quarts.

\$20 per case of 2 dozen pints.

LAURENT, CHATEAU LAROCHE.

\$18 per case of 1 dozen quarts.

\$16 per case of 2 dozen pints.

DOUGLAS LA PAIR & CO., Agents for the Phoenix Fire Office, Hongkong, 17th August, 1888.

FOR SALE.

C. H. S. HEIDSIECK & CO., CHAMPAGNE,

QUARTS \$28 per Case of 1 Dozen.

PINTS \$25 per Case of 2 Dozen.

GILMAN & CO., Hongkong, 31st May, 1888.

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PINTS \$25 per Case of 2 Dozen.

GILMAN & CO., Hongkong, 31

MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, AUGUST 25TH, 1888.

REDUCED TAXATION

As the time for the appearance of the Estimates approaches the question is being asked whether the promised reduction of taxation is likely to take place next year. The Governor some time ago expressed himself as being anxious to be able to recommend a reduction, and now that the Opium Farm has been let for such a substantial advance on the present rent His Excellency will, we trust, find himself in a position to carry out his desire. The revenue derived from the Opium Farm at present is \$182,400 a year. Under the new lease, which will begin to run in March next, the rent is \$39,800 per month, or \$477,600 per annum, an increase of \$295,200. Next year, owing to the old lease not expiring until March, the increase for the year will be about \$220,000 only. This, however, is more than ample to cover a reduction in the house tax from 13 to 10 per cent. The rateable value of the whole colony is \$3,050,790, and the amount of the rates under the existing assessment \$377,090; for the City of Victoria alone the figures are \$2,722,605, and \$353,755 respectively. In the villages the rates vary from 7 to 8½ per cent. A reduction of 3 per cent. in the City of Victoria and a proportionate reduction in the villages would bring the total amount of the rates down to something under \$300,000, say, \$275,000. This would show a loss to the revenue of \$102,490, against which may be set the increase of \$220,800 in the revenue from the Opium Farm, leaving the Treasury more than \$100,000 to the good on the combined income from these two sources. His Excellency will, therefore, have little hesitation, we should imagine, in recommending the Legislative Council to pass the necessary resolution for a reduction of the rates, more especially as the present revenue is more than sufficient to cover the ordinary expenditure of the colony and the principle of paying for extraordinary public works by loan has been approved.

the provinces do not seem at present to secure much attention in that quarter. The real remedy for the numerous fiscal abuses which prevail in China, which hamper both foreign and local trade, would be to transfer the whole business of revenue collection at the ports from the provincial authorities to the Foreign Customs. The success which has thus far attended the working of the Kowloon and Lappa stations may perhaps in course of time encourage the Peking Government to take this step, which, momentous as it would be, could probably be effected without serious opposition provided just arrangements were made as to the apportionment of the revenues to the imperial and provincial expenditure.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF KOWLOON.

A correspondent in another column draws attention to the position of Kowloon, to the developments taking place there, and the necessity of action on the part of the Government in order to allow the place to make proper headway. As our correspondent very rightly remarks, the mistakes which have been made in the laying out of Victoria—which, indeed, can hardly be said to have ever been laid out, but to have grown without the observance of any rules—should be avoided from the outset in the new settlement at Kowloon. One of the first requirements is that a proper drainage scheme should be worked out and decided upon, one adapted to the requirements of a fair sized town. A railway from Canton having its terminus at some point in the peninsula is a certainty of the future; how long it may be delayed it is impossible to say; but there are indications that warrant an expectation that the work will be commenced before many years have passed. When that work is accomplished, Kowloon will grow rapidly, and it is not improbable that some of the business houses may be transferred to that

ILLEGAL INTERFERENCE WITH FOREIGN TRADE AT CANTON.

In another column we publish a correspondence which has passed between the Canton Chamber of Commerce and the Consuls with reference to illegal interference with foreign trade by native officials. The Chamber of Commerce make two complaints: first, that certain native officials claim a right to demand from foreign merchants statements of ownership on their goods in course of shipment by, or discharging from, the river steamers plying between Canton and Hongkong, such goods having paid export or import duty in accordance with the tariff; this claim is made presumably with the object of imposing taxation of some sort, and goods have been detained in consequence of a refusal to comply with the demand; the second complaint is that the transit pass regulations are not respected. Both these subjects were commented on in these columns some weeks ago. With reference to the former, the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce says that at the present moment the obstruction is less pronounced than has been the case; but adds that "similar intervals of cessation have been noticed in the past, and it appears that at any moment difficulties may again arise and with even more serious consequences than those hitherto experienced." The Consuls in their reply state that the various points touched upon by the Chamber have had their serious attention for some time past, and they understand that as the result of their representations in the matter the interference with foreign owned goods has been given up. We may therefore hope that we have heard the last of it. The claim advanced by the Chinese officials was so thoroughly untenable and outrageous, and so calculated to lead to serious friction and complications, that it is difficult to believe it will ever again be advanced. The refusal to recognise the permits to ship issued by the Imperial Maritime Customs could not have been upheld at Peking if the question had been carried there, and the Viceroy would hardly care to raise trouble in a matter on which he must know he would be ruled so completely out of court.

earnest; there are several houses going up at present, and very shortly, we hear, about a dozen others are to be commenced, making a sensible addition to the number already existing. This is only a commencement the other lotholders will speedily follow the example of the originators of the movement. With the great pressure on the house accommodation in Victoria and at the Peak, which is becoming greater every day there can be no doubt that houses at Kowloon will be occupied as rapidly as they can be built. Hitherto the defective ferry communication has been a drawback to the place but this will be remedied almost immediately, as the new Ferry Company intend commencing operations next month and will run launches regularly up to midnight. Residents on the other side will therefore not be cut off from the social life of the community on this side to the extent that has hitherto been the case.

Amongst the improvements advocated by our correspondent are drainage, already alluded to, lighting, water supply, and a public recreation ground. With reference to lighting, the Gas Company purchased a piece of ground at Yaumati some twelve months or more ago, in anticipation of the demand they foresaw must arise for their illuminant. If it were decided to light the roads by gas the Company would doubtless be willing to set up their works at once, and in a few years a large private consumption may be confidently reckoned on. A sufficient water supply could be secured at small cost from the hills at the back of the peninsula. For these improvements the residents are willing to be taxed at the same rate as residents in Victoria. At present the amount that would thus be collected would be far short of the amount required to maintain the services but in opening up new districts it should be the object of the Government to attract population by providing the necessary conveniences somewhat in advance of the growth of the community; and that the outlay would ultimately be repaid out of the rates there can be no doubt. It would be unreasonable to expect all the improvements asked for to be carried out immediately, but this is the argument, after

As regards the important transit passes, the reply of the Consuls is by no means reassuring. On this point they say:—"So far as the obstructions stated to be put in the way of foreigners taking goods up country or bringing produce down under transit pass are concerned, representation has been made from time to time, and the matter has been a constant subject of discussion between the Ministers and the Tsung-li Yamen, and locally little can be done by the Consuls beyond taking up individual cases, which they are at all times ready to do." Things may therefore be expected to go on as they have been doing, and the transit pass system to remain a dead letter in the South. Why the provisions of the Treaty on this subject should be allowed to be disregarded in this part of the Empire it is difficult to say. There is no ambiguity in the Treaty, and no obstacle to its being carried out if the native authorities were so disposed, but they openly set it at defiance and, to quote the letter of the Canton Chamber of Commerce, the stamping of passes presented at stations en route is delayed or refused; owing to the intimidation of boatmen it is difficult to find the means of transporting cargo; and it is threatened that where the impediments are overcome merchandise will be followed to its destination and there levied in addition to the transit dues already paid.

ately, but we think the property owner and residents of Kowloon are not unreasonable in asking that their claims to attention in the directions indicated should be recognised, and that there should be no unnecessary delay in commencing a system of drainage, which is at least as necessary in Kowloon as at the Peak—much more so, we should say, having regard to the physical features of the district.

The suggestion of our correspondent with reference to a recreation ground is good in itself, but whether it is desirable to devote one of the most valuable pieces of ground in the whole peninsula to this purpose is another question. If we are not mistaken a piece of ground has been reserved for the purpose, and is now used by the Forestry Department as a nursery, but it is a considerable distance from the Point, and even if laid out as a garden or pleasure ground would, it is said, be little used on that account. Tsin-tsa-tsu Bay, if reclaimed, would undoubtedly form an excellent situation for a recreation ground, and it would be appreciated by visitors from Hongkong as well as residents on the Kowloon side. The Government, however, would probably look to the sale of the land to defray the cost of reclamation; it would form most desirable sites for dwellings, and would no doubt be warmly contested for if put up to auction. It

transit dues already paid.

The Chamber make good their indictment that "the foreign trade of the port is subject to systematic obstruction," and it behoves the Foreign Ministers at Peking to take vigorous measures to enforce compliance with treaty stipulations. There is an enormous field for the expansion of foreign trade in South China, if it had anything like fair play, but the obstructive policy of the local officials keeps it confined within the narrow limits it now fills. The Peking Government are responsible for the acts of their officials, and that they have abundant power to control them is proved by the successful working of the new Opium Agreement, which is faithfully observed even at Canton, although it is gall and wormwood to the officials there. It is to the interest of the Chinese Government to see that this Agreement is complied with, for under it they secure advantages of great value which they

competed for if put up to auction. If the Government can be persuaded to take opposite view, and devote the land to the purposes of a pleasure garden, it would be a public boon, in face of which we think few would be inclined to complain of the loss the amount that might be realised by sale. The cost of reclamation would not be great; the bay is shallow, and as the War Department have exchanged their piece of ground above Messrs. Blackhead and Co.'s lot (formerly reserved for a fort) for an addition to their principal lot, the hill there which is close by the Bay, could be cut away and the material used for filling in. Whatever decision may be come to on this point however, we trust the Kowloon Inholders will receive due encouragement from Government in their efforts to open up the district and to supply the very pressing demand which exists in the colony for houses accommodation at moderate rentals.

1000 m elevation at 4000 m² Forest.

pass clause of the Tientsin treaty is no less binding than the Opium Agreement, yet we find it systematically ignored in one portion of the Empire simply because the local officials do not consider it to their interest that it should be observed, and the Central Government has not yet thought proper to exercise its authority in the matter. It is to the Foreign Ministers at Peking that we must look in the first instance for the rectification of this state of

ould draw the red footstool up before the empty grate, and sit in the most intense silence, "Suppose there was a great, wide steel plate here, and a great glowing fire, with loads of red-hot coal and lots of little dancing, flickering flames. Suppose there was a soft, deep rug, and this was a comfortable chair, with cushions and crimson velvet," and so on, and sometimes, after she had supposed things like these for half-an-hour, she would feel almost warm, and fall asleep with a smile on her face. Our friend of the *China* will has been playing Sam Crewe. British trade with China is in rather a sad plight, "but suppose," says our innocent and imaginative friend, "we could turn all our pounds into taels at the current rate of exchange, and turn the taels back into pounds at the rate of exchange of seventeen years ago, how nice it would be. And really, you know, the

whereas the other two-thirds have gone to countries to whom it represents almost a net gain. Thus the value of the imports from the United States has increased from £ls. 449,279 to £ls. 4,398,390; the Continent of Europe from £ls. 235,907 to £ls. 2,587,548; and Japan, which is not affected by the exchange, from £ls. 1,891,061 to £ls. 5,565,305. If we look at the value of British trade in silver, it has increased undoubtedly, but in England it is reckoned in pounds and not in taels. In our first article we said that measured by quantity the trade had increased, but that prices (in sterling) had fallen more rapidly than the trade had grown in quantity. Our contemporary joined issue with us, but if he argues till doomsday he will not be able to prove that £8,000,000 is more than £9,000,000.

STOCK GAMBLING AND ITS RISKS.

That Mr. APPERS, the share defaulter whose name has been before the public for some months past in connection with proceedings in the Bankruptcy Court, would have to go to jail was a foregone conclusion. With a salary of \$200 a month

it fancy accounts, but the hard fact remains that whereas the value of British produce and manufactures exported to China and Hongkong in 1871 was £9,415,950, last year it was only £8,789,537, showing that during the seventeen years covered by the return there has been not only no expansion of the trade in British goods in China, as measured by values, but actually a falling off. That we have had to give more goods or less money, a fact from which the China Rail derives so much comfort, only makes the position still more unfavourable to the exporting country. No one can seriously suppose that the profit on the eight million odd of last year was greater than that on the nine million odd of seventeen years ago. So far as China was concerned, there was therefore evident room for an inquiry into the causes of the depression of trade; but our contemporary is perhaps ignorant of the fact that there have ever been any complaints of depression. There is another consideration which must strike the parties interested rather forcibly. In former days large profits were made by local merchants on the import trade of China, whereas it is now nearly all done on a small commission, so that there must have been a shrinkage of profits both in England and at this end. And while England has thus been standing still other countries have been advancing. The value of the direct imports into China from the United States of America has risen from about £150,000 in 1871 to over £800,000 in 1887, and those from the Continent of Europe from a little over £70,000 to over £600,000. These figures do not include goods transhipped in Hongkong and set down in the Chinese Customs Returns as imports from Hongkong. In the calculation we have taken note of the fall in exchange rates, and also of the increase in the cost of shipping and insurance.

With a salary of £200 a month and no capital, Mr. APENES, in the course of three months, bought and sold shares on time to the extent of nearly a million dollars, with the result that he was involved in liabilities that he had no prospect of discharging. The amount of his deficiency, \$16,600, is equivalent to the full amount he would have earned in seven years at the salary he was receiving. The case was one of rash and hazardous speculation pure and simple, and the Court could not, without reversing precedent and disregarding public policy, have done otherwise than deal with the bankrupt under the section of the Bankruptcy Act which gives it power to punish such conduct by imprisonment. As the Acting Chief Justice said on the 16th inst., there have been previous cases in which the Court has exercised this power, but the present case was worse than any of those. In the previous cases there was some margin to meet possible losses, but in this case the bankrupt was a debtor at the time he began his speculations. If conduct such as that of Mr. APENES were allowed to go unpunished, a direct premium would be put on gambling in shares by men of straw, who, if the market goes against them, have not a cent with which to meet their losses. When a case of the kind is brought to light, therefore, the Court has no option but to punish the defaulter in a sufficiently severe manner to exercise a deterrent effect on others who may be disposed to make a trial of the same risky means of growing rich. It is impossible to suppress gambling out the stock exchange, but cases like that disposed of yesterday have a tendency to clear the air, to make men of limited means fight shy of the business, and to make speculators keep their operations within prudent bounds.

While fully recognising the justice of the

bange; but would mention for our contemporary's information—that the Customs Returns are expressed in Haikwan taels, which are not the same as the Shanghai taels: Applying the same process to the imports into China from Hongkong, we find that the value in sterling in 1871 was, in round numbers, £27,500,000, and in 1887 £18,000,000. The English Customs Returns show that none of this increase can be credited to British goods, except a small amount to counterbalance deficiency in the direct export. A portion of it is perhaps accounted for by imports from the Straits, Siam, etc., but a considerable share of it must also be put down to our Continental and American rivals. The Chinese Customs Returns show that these have largely increased their direct imports, and it is only reasonable to suppose that they have increased their imports via Hongkong in the same proportion. It does not matter in the least whether the account be made up in gold or silver, the fact remains that trade in British goods has not been advancing, whereas that in the goods of other countries has. It is true that turning the total values of China's import trade in 1871 and in 1887 from silver into sterling an increase of less than a million and a half in the interval is shown, the figures being £23,367,000 in 1871 as against £24,820,000 in 1887, but as a good deal of business is done with silver using countries, and is therefore not affected by the fall in exchange, the value of this comparison is reduced almost to nil. Taking it from

While fully recognising the justice of the sentence passed upon Mr. APENES, it is impossible altogether to withhold sympathy from the unfortunate man who is to undergo such a severe punishment for his folly. The Judge said he thought it was nothing less than pure dishonesty for any man to enter upon speculation of the sort the bankrupt had indulged in. It is hard sometimes to draw the line between folly and crime, but it is probably only just to Mr. APENES to say that there was not a suspicion of criminal intention in his mind when he entered upon the operations in the share market which have ended so disastrously for himself, and, in a smaller measure, for those who had dealings with him. He acted, according to his own statement, on information and advice which he believed to be reliable, and thought he was going to make a fortune. Had the market gone in his favour instead of against him, he would have been congratulated on his courage and soundness of judgment, and, if it had been known that he had no capital when he commenced his operations, his success would have been admired all the more. The foundations of many princely fortunes have been laid by means no more reputable than those by which Mr. APENES intended to make his; success, where it is achieved, is accepted by the world as a condonation of whatever rashness or hazardousness there may have been in the methods employed, and even of worse faults. Those who would "make haste to get rich" by plunging beyond their depth in the share

is reduced almost to nil. Taking it, however, that China has increased her foreign import trade by only a million and a half sterling, it cannot be satisfactory to Englishmen to know that English goods have contributed nothing to the increase, such as it is. If the pounds of the English Customs Returns be turned into taels, an increase is shown, but while the pound sterling continues to be the standard coin of England it is by that coin that the trade of Eng-

land must be measured. The English market, however, would do well to take warning, by the case of Mr. APENES and the other cases that have been brought to light in the Bankruptcy Court, of the risks they incur, and to bear in mind that the stake for which they propose to play includes honour as well as money and that missing the fortune for which they sigh they may find themselves committed to gaol under the punitive clauses of the Bankruptcy Act.

PRIVATEERING AND THE RIGHT OF CAPTURE.

Much has been heard of late about the defence of our mercantile marine, and the subject is indeed one to which it is impossible to attach too much importance, so long as the right of capture exists. An address was recently delivered by Mr. Bowles in the council room of the London Chamber of Commerce on "The National Defence of Commerce as affected by the Declaration of 1856." Mr. Bowles, according to the report in the Times, contended that the principles assumed to be laid down by the Declaration of Paris in prohibiting privateering and the capture of enemy's merchandise in neutral bottoms were novel innovations in and at variance with the law of nations, first conceived and finally laid down in order to diminish the warlike

In reference to the relative value of England's exports to China in the years 1871 and 1887 we observe that the *China Mail* still holds that notwithstanding the figures for the former year were £9,415,950, and in 1887 £8,789,597 the trade has been advancing. This conclusion it arrives at by exchange calculations, taking the tael as the standard. Our contemporary, referring to our second article on the subject, says we try to hide our former statements under a cloud of words, so that the real issue may be obscured; and it then proceeds to state what it conceives to be the real issue, but not in language that can be called concise. We said in our first article (16th August) that England's export trade to China,

as measured by values (in sterling) had not only shown no increase but had actually fallen off. The English Customs returns prove this unmistakably. We also said that the Chinese Customs Returns showed that the Chinese imports from other countries had been increasing. China has an increase of thirty million taels to account for, and of this the *China Mail* says she has given one-third to England. Even granting that this is so—the figures do not prove it—the fact remains that this one-third does not suffice to balance the exchange account,

on the spot have represented the Tibetan works that have been carried out as rendering the position practically impregnable against troops armed as the Tibetans are; so that a further advance is in contemplation would seem to be the most probable explanation. Meanwhile, nothing appears to have been heard of any modification in the attitude of the Tibetans resulting from the arrival of the new Chinese Resident at Lhasa, from whose good offices much was anticipated." It appears the Tibetans have not only taken up positions on the Sikkim side of the Jeylap-la and Pembaringo Passes, which they held in force, but that a body of 1,000 men is moving upon Enchi, where the Rajah of Sikkim has been living since February. The position is rather a serious one, not from a military point of view, but in respect of the political questions that may be raised. The expedition was protested against from the first by many of the Indian papers, and events seem to be justifying the views they expressed. It seems probable that the affair will after all result in an invasion of Thibet itself, unless it is to have a futile ending. The Government has declared that it has no intention of sending troops across the frontier, but, as our contemporary remarks, when arms are once taken up, it is difficult to limit the area of their use. An invasion of Thibet from India would un-

invasion of India from China would undoubtedly be regarded with grave dissatisfaction at Peking, and the Chinese, if they did not afford active assistance to the Tibetans, would make full use of the incident whenever opportunity offered in the course of diplomacy. This is a consideration on which stress is laid by a section of the Indian Press; but, important though it be, it cannot be allowed to override all others. While it is to the interest of England, as it certainly is her desire, to cultivate and cement her friendship with China, this is not to be done by surrendering at every point for fear of giving offence. Tibet is a vassal state of China, and it is China's duty to see that her vassal does not commit offences against a friendly power. If she refuses or is unable to do so, then the power which has been attacked must take the necessary measures itself. Whether the resort to force as a means of settling the Sikkim difficulty was premature or not, withdrawal is now impossible until the object of the expedition has been accomplished, and the Tibetan forces not only completely driven out of the country but guarantees taken against future attacks. China could, we believe, if she chose, exercise sufficient control over the Lamas to make them respect the British claims in Sikkim; if she does not do so there is no alternative but to deal directly with Lhasa itself.

himself, and the last of the Soudan provinces which held out will now fall under the dominion of the False Prophet.

EMIN Pasha having unfortunately met his death, if REUTER is to be trusted, the anxiety respecting STANLEY's position will further intensified. It is of course not consistent with the telegram that EMIN may have been shot at Wadelai by traitors, and that the white Pasha, of whom so many rumours have been heard of late, may be Mr. STANLEY. The suggestion has been made in the American papers that this mysterious personage might be Mr. O'DONNOVAN, adventurer who disappeared in the Soudan, and the suggestion that he might be the great GORDON himself has also been put forward in the Indian papers as well as in our own columns; but both suggestions are so extremely improbable that we are forced to the conclusion that he was either EMIN or STANLEY. Assuming, as the latest news seems to indicate, that EMIN was the white Pasha, then STANLEY's position remains unknown. From an Indian contemporary we make the following sketch of the movements of the Relief Expedition from the time when it set out from Zanzibar on the 25th February, 1887, to the month of May last, when the most recent and authentic news of STANLEY was received. From Zanzibar, STANLEY made for the Congo, which we know he reached, and from whence he was to make for Lake Albert Nyanza via the Aruwimi country. From Lake Albert Nyanza his route to EMIN Bay led him through a region not hitherto traversed by Europeans. On the 2nd June, 1887, he was encamped somewhere in the Aruwimi country, and on the 8th August following he reported that he had left for Wadelai. Since then, letters have been received at intervals from Major BARTELLOT, Mr. TROP, Mr. WAED, and others of his lieutenants, from which we conclude that STANLEY was on the 6th May last at camp Tambuya on the Aruwimi river. Beyond this there is nothing certain, but it is satisfactory to know that the reports as to his being in imminent danger among the forests and mountains of the Aruwimi country, circulated some time ago, were disbelieved by the EMIN Bay Relief Committee. Already there has been talk, however, of sending a relief party in search of him, and certainly there is ground for very grave anxiety regarding the position of the intrepid explorer.

THE CHINESE QUESTION IN AUSTRALIA.

to Hongkong after an absence of six years to notice the great changes which have been effected

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* has the reputation of being one of the best informed journalists in the metropolis on matters transpiring in the state departments. He recently wrote that the Foreign Office had decided not to open negotiations for the present with the Peking Government for a settlement of the question of Chinese immigration into Australia; that the Government would probably first check the emigration of Chinese to Australia from Hongkong and Singapore, which are the centres of the trade, and then induce the Australian Government to pass a measure dealing with immigration in general, which would be free from the objection to the present laws that they discriminate against Chinese only. A question as to the truth of this statement was put in the House of Commons, when Sir J. FERGUSSON stated that Her Majesty's Government were already in communication with the Government of China on the subject. This, however, does not involve a denial of the whole of the statements made by the London correspondent. The fact that the two Governments are in communication is not inconsistent with the possibility that the settlement in contemplation by Lord SALISBURY is suggested by the *Manchester Guardian*'s correspondent.—The Australians, with their ultra-national feelings, are only a few degrees less hostile to the immigration of foreigners from the Continent of Europe than they are to that of the Chinese, and the intention of dealing with that question after the Chinese question has been settled is freely spoken of. If they could deal with the two together they would do well to do so.

The great change which has taken place in the colony in so short a period. Roads and buildings have multiplied in an enormous degree, the Peak tramway and the numerous new buildings on that high level—the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the new Kowloon Docks, and the new Roman Catholic Cathedral standing out in bold relief as specimens of Hongkong enterprise. The only drawback to this flourishing state of things appears to me to be the gradual, but extensive appropriation of European houses by the Chinese, a fact which leads me to believe that the European residents of this colony will at a very early date be literally driven up the hill by the ever increasing flood of Chinese residents. Kowloon is, so far, free from the Chinese invasion, and it is to that healthy and cool summer resort that I would call the attention of your readers. I have also noticed very important changes and considerable improvements in that recent addition to British territory in this part of the world. Large warehouses have sprung up as if by magic in a place which was formerly entirely destitute of all commercial movement, an extensive and fine sea wall with several piers has been built, a palatial Police Station stands out prominently, an Observatory has been built, several splendid villas have been constructed, a fine road 100 feet wide connects the locality with Yau-tai, a flourishing Chinese village, new military barracks, two forts, and various other improvements are to be noticed in Kowloon, and I learn larger barracks are to be built for the coming regiment. There is also a movement for a railroad from Canton to Kowloon, and it is said that scheme is likely to be sanctioned by the Imperial Government of China. All these things go on the belief that the Peninsula is decidedly rising and promises to rival Hongkong in the near future. Now is assuredly the time for the Government to exercise that amount of foresight and care which are necessary in order to prevent the rising town of Kowloon from lapsing into the

ould be delighted. In the United States the question of controlling and limiting immigration from Europe, as well as from China, is now being seriously discussed in the Press; and the expediency of preventing the landing of pauper immigrants from the continent in England has also been advocated by persons occupying responsible and influential positions. The principle may therefore be said to be fairly within the range of practical discussion, though its application would probably be attended by many and serious difficulties. The British Government, giving effect to the views of the Australian colonies with regard to the exclusion of the Chinese, will naturally be desirous to wound Chinese *amour propre* as little as possible, and if it were feasible to accomplish the end in view by legislation which should achieve the object in view without discriminating against China it would be a decided advantage as regards the relations between England and the latter country and would meet with rising town of Kowloon from lapsing into the defects and irregularities which have been allowed to grow with the colony of Hongkong. Straight and broad roads ought to be made, a system of drainage and sewerage in harmony with the new sanitary law ought to be enforced, the proper lighting of the place ought to be attended to; in a word, the Government ought to bring its powerful stock of resources to help and improve the place. An important event in the history of British Kowloon is the termination of the long pending case of the extension of leases. Owing to this happy consummation, I was informed most of the garden lot holders have applied to have their garden leases exchanged for building leases, and the result of this has been that new buildings and villas are fast springing up, all over Kowloon. The condition imposed by the Government for granting this exchange is that the lessee pays half a cent for every square foot as an additional premium and an annual rent of \$200 per acre. If all the Kowloon garden lot holders get their leases exchanged it will comprise about 110 acres, and the total Crown rent to be derived from this source would reach the handsome sum of \$22,000.

The direct telegram published to-day, announcing that Emin Pasha has been shot, will be read with deep regret. Another telegram, from a Ceylon paper, dated Zanzibar, 1st August, states that he had been shot by a native, who was captured and executed. The telegram continues: "The Government of Zanzibar have given their full support to the action of the Sultan, and have sent a force to assist him in his operations against the rebels." This is a most important development in the affairs of East Africa, as it shows that the Sultan's forces are now in full control of the country, and that the rebellion is at an end.

that, states that reports had been brought in by passengers to the effect that in April EMIN Pasha's provisions were scarce, and that Mahdiists were advancing against him, but EMIN hoped to repel them by a rapid attack. This, coupled with the fact of news having been received that he has been shot, leaves little room for doubt that he was the white Pasha reported to be advancing against the Mahdi. EMIN Pasha was an Austrian, Dr. SCHNITZLER, who was appointed by the Khedive Governor of the Lake Regions province of the Soudan. Since the MAHDI's rising EMIN has been cut off from all direct communication with the outside world, but news has from time to time been received from him through native messengers. He had kept together a garrison, and had two steamers on Lake Albert Nyanga. His chief station was

THE SIKKIM DIFFICULTY.

A Simla telegram of the 31st July states that five hundred men of the 2nd Battalion 1st Gurkhas, from Dharmshala, were under orders for Sikkim. Commenting on this the Indian Daily News says it "would seem to indicate either that General GRAHAM is alarmed for the safety of the Gnatong post, in view of the extensive preparations the Tibetans are making, or that the Government contemplate a withdrawal of their prohibition against our advance, and authorising General GRAHAM to assume the offensive. As to the safety of Gnatong, correspondents

of its most required improvements—a public recreation ground. If another site had been reserved for the military, the present reserved land would have afforded a capital recreation ground, in its central. As far as now stand I think the only available and suitable place for a recreation ground would be the one directly opposite the landing stage at the Peak Point. It is there the landing stage is exposed to the south-west monsoon, and would be exceedingly beneficial to the public from the fact of its bordering on the sea. Hongkong residents may also (with advantage as regards cheapness and enjoying a twenty-minutes sea breeze) use this place of recreation in preference to the Peak, which is more costly, and often covered by fog.—I remain, Sir, your etc.,

AN OLD RESIDENT.

Hongkong, 23rd August, 1888.

THE APENES CASE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS".
DEAR SIR.—Perhaps you will permit me to make some remarks on the judgment in the case of Mr. A. Apenes and your leader therein, which appear in your paper this morning. The case is a sad one. When I was a boy, I have heard of Mr. Apenes. He was a man who had lived a more simple, industrious life (without luxury) than most men. He dedicated himself entirely, in the hope of it, that of getting out his wife from his native land. Who knows how far this temptation after weary waiting may have notation in his desire to become quickly rich. So far as the application of law to the specific circumstances of the case goes, I am sure that the law is on the side of justice. But as to the policy of the law which you approve of "as tending to clear the air," that seems to be more open to comment. Mr. Apenes speculated to the extent of a million dollars, and failed for \$16,000. I suppose that a good part of that amount against him consisted of claims for dividends arising out of share transactions; other claims, such as trademens' bills, stand in a different category.

Mr. Apenes speculated, in other words, he gambled. But were not those individuals who contracted with him for goods and hundreds of shillings gamblers too? They knew and their brokers knew this gentleman's position, a clerk at \$200 per month. Did they think he could be induced to pay off his debts, or that his bankruptcy, in view of his wealth and hazardous speculation or imprudent extravagance in living, or that he has put away all of his creditors to unnecessary expense by frivolous or "extraneous" defence, to any action or suit to recover any debt, money due to them, the Court may refuse to order his discharge, or pay dividends in the same form as taking effect for dividends in the case of shares? I do not know. The Ordinance here, § 5 of 1884, is extremely strict in this respect. The section which was written upon very fully in Griffiths and Holmes. In their book would be found the introduction a passage which appeared to him extremely appropriate to the present case. Quoting from another writer on bankruptcy the passage stated—The chief aim of every system of bankrupt law should be to combine and regulate two great objects. 1. The distribution of the effects of bankruptcy among the creditors. 2. The liquidation and the most economical mode. 2. The liquidation of his person from the demands of his creditors when he has made a full surrender of his property. Thereupon went on to observe, however, "that there is a caution to be added that this libelation should be effected in such a way not to injury to encourage bankruptcy. Speculation at the risk of one's creditors for the profit of oneself is a most unnatural proceeding." This is what it is to run a risk to find a bankrupt who has not been guilty of such fault." There were cases, no doubt, where no assets might be available for distribution, and where it was clearly right to grant protection against vindictive or rapacious creditors, but advantage was frequently taken of the Bankruptcy law in this colony to avoid the consequences of judgments in the Courts of Justice, and the question is which, is the better policy?

You say such law and such examples "clear the air" of men-of-straw speculators. Let us call them gamblers. That is the point, at the bottom of the case, as shown in the judgment itself, which recognises that there was a "series" of similar cases. Yet that did not stop Mr. Apenes and others from fretting themselves on what they thought "good information." Now look at other consequences. The law of Hongkong appears to legalize huge gambling transactions, and to put the winner in the position of saying "Pay me what thou owest under the law of bankruptcy, my claimants, loss of employment, and so forth, and I will give you and my family." There is nothing to prevent a absurdly rich securing all the stock of some of the big Hongkong Companies, and after intriguing unwary speculators into time-bargains forcing up the price. Then the gamblers who lose, if they are poor, must suffer the penalties above enumerated, because the bond-slaves of the game who win their promissory notes secured personal rights over the debts of the game, but only with gambling ones. I think, sir, the policy embodied in the late law of England is much wholsomer than that of the former law which you seem to favour. I say let gamblers gamble at their own risk, and not invoke the arm of the bankruptcy law to sweep the losers, who are sometimes victims and dupes as well as debtors. We have an able man as Governor; could he not make his own laws, and apply the two policies embodied in the law former and the later law of England, and bring the above-mentioned seductive English Act into force in Hongkong? I have trespassed at great length on your patience. My excuse may be that this is a question of public policy.

NUN-GAMBLER.

Hongkong, 17th August, 1888.

BRITISH TRADE WITH CHINA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS".
SIR.—The China Mail says you "tried to hide your former statements under a cloud of words." I have looked up the Customs Returns as your contemporary prefers to take the silver tail as the standard of value and I find that the total trade of China with foreign countries was in 1887..... H. T. 18, 95, 528
an increase of 37.50 per cent. 1887..... 183,2337
With Great Britain in 1871 61,982,17
in 1887 42,149,282 a decline of 32 per cent.

With the United States in 1871 10,607,297
in 1887 12,313,110 an increase of 14 per cent.
With the Continent of Europe, including Russia in 1871..... 5,251,444
in 1887 21,163,012 an increase of 303 per cent.—Yours truly,

FIGURES.

Hongkong, 20th August, 1888.

CLASSES ON THE TRAMWAY.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS".
DEAR SIR.—On going up the Peak yesterday I was very much surprised to find that the tram car converted into first class and second class carriages there having to pay first-class fare. Could you tell me where the second class carriages are to sit. Certainly not in the third class compartment, for that is also converted into first class smoking, at least the greater part of it. Have the Hongkong High Level Tramway Company done this for the convenience of passengers with an eye to piling up the dollars.—I am, etc.

SECOND CLASS.

Hongkong, 18th August, 1888.

SUPREME COURT.

18th August.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HON. J. ROUSSEAU, ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.

ER. E. A. APENES.

The bankrupt came up for his discharge.

Mr. Webster appeared on behalf of the bankrupt and Mr. Wilson on behalf of several of the creditors.

The Official Assignee gave a further report that the bankrupt was due to rash and imprudent calculations and that he opposed the discharge.

Mr. Webster said that Mr. Wilson had said on the last occasion that he should oppose the discharge unless some arrangement was come to between him and his clients and that they were willing to accept \$30 per month. The bankrupt was

willing to pay \$30 per month, and if his salary was increased, as he maintained, he would undertake to pay \$50 per month. He was and is still getting some extra work to do, and he would then increase his monthly payment.

In reply to His Lordship, Mr. Wilson said his client was willing to accept the bankrupt's offer, and he did not therefore oppose his discharge.

His Lordship said he had considered this matter thoroughly, and there was "a very imposed upon the Court which could not be avoided; however unpleasant it might be." From the evidence taken it appeared that the bankrupt was employed as a clerk in the Godown Company at \$200 per month, and had suddenly gone in for a very risky and hazardous venture. In the course of three months he had indulged in operations in shares, taking both buying and selling to the amount of something near a million dollars. His Lordship could not see that he had any ground whatever for such speculations except that some friend had told him that he was a good speculator, and the adjourned hearing was suspended.

It is the opinion of the court that much friction would be avoided if the Bankruptcy Court it would be overlooked. By section 142 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance of 1884 certain powers were vested in the Court, and which, it is the Court's duty to exercise independent of whether the creditors or debtors are represented. The court is to decide whether the bankrupt is honest or dishonest, and whether he acted in a reckless and hazardous manner, and whether he could not act otherwise, that in the Bankruptcy Court it would be overlooked.

Trusting you will deem the foregoing worthy of your early consideration,

As far as regards the landing and shipping of merchandise at the present moment the obstruction to which I refer is less pronounced than has been the case, and certain intervals of possession have been noticed, in the past, and it appears that at any moment difficulties may again arise and with even more serious consequences than those experienced in the past.

To make a detailed statement of cause now would be to trouble you to little purpose.

My object is to bring to your notice the fact that the foreign trade of the port is subject to systematic obstruction, and I have the honour to ask you that it will be so as much as possible as you may consider desirable in the circumstances.

There is no real subject to which I would direct your attention, but I would like to point out that the patients refuse point blank to pay on European beds, and will rather leave those institutions than perform what they consider the hardship of sleeping on any but their own class of European beds.

This is then the reason why instead of resembling an English hospital with its sunny curtains, beds, windows and pictures, the patients are sent to old Sanitary Board suggestions, bed sent to the Government as to what in the future regards as epidemic of small-pox. Perhaps

Mr. Francis would like to have those read.

The Secretary then read the letter of the Board to the Governor which was as follows:

4th June, 1888.
Sir.—Advertising to previous correspondence, subject of a recommendation by the Sanitary Board for the favourable consideration of the Government with regard to the establishment in a separate portion of the city of a new hospital, and the Board's suggestion, has been sent to the Government as to what in the future regards as an epidemic of small-pox. Perhaps

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